Statements by Mrs. Kennedy, Look and

Mrs. Kennedy's Statement

Following is the text of a statement by Mrs. John F. Kennedy on her suit to stop the publication of William Manchester's book "Death of a President:"

Look Magazine, Harper & Row and Mr. William Manchester have repeatedly made clear that only legal action can alter their insistence upon publishing at this time — without regard to accepted standards of propriety and good faith, and in specific violation of my wishes, my contract with Mr. Manchester and the dignity and privacy my children and I have striven with difficulty to retain — a premature account of the events of November, 1963, that is in part both tasteless and distorted.

Its inaccurate and unfair references to other individuals, in contrast with its generous references to all members of the Kennedy family, are perhaps beyond my prevention; but to expose to all the world at this time all the private grief, personal thoughts and painful reactions my children and I endured in those terrible days does not seem to me to be essential to any current historical record.

I am shocked that Mr. Manchester would exploit the emotional state in which I recounted my recollections to him early in 1964, and I'm equally shocked that reputable publishers would take commercial advantage of his failure to keep his word. To the author and publishers this book will only be another transient chapter in their works, but my children and I will have to live with it for the rest of our lives.

As horrible as a trial will be, it now seems clear that my only redress is to ask the courts to enforce my rights and postpone publication until the minimum limits of my family's privacy can be protected.

Look's Statement

Following is the text of a statement by William Attwood, editor in chief of all publications of Cowles Communications, Inc., concerning the planned serialization by Look magazine of parts of "Death of a President":

Last July, Look was invited to bid for the serialization rights to the William Manchester manuscript, "Death of a President." Look purchased the rights with the full knowledge and approval of the Kennedy family.

William Attwood, editor-in-chief of the Cowles publications, made statement.

To keep the record straight, the public should know that Mrs. Kennedy asked Gardner Cowles, editorial chairman of Cowles Communications, Inc., last August, to postpone the start of the serialization in Look, so that the serialization would not be occurring during the anniversary of the assassination.

That is the time of year which, she said, was most difficult for her. Look agreed to a postponement in accordance with her wishes.

Two weeks later she requested that Look's serialization be reduced from the seven installments originally contemplated. Look agreed to this second request in deference to her feelings and rescheduled the serialization to four installments.

On Sept. 1, Look announced in The New York Times that the four installments would begin in January.

In late September, Mrs. Kennedy asked Look to see her representative, who wanted to suggest several changes in certain episodes in the manuscript that particularly distressed her. After several conferences, Look sent an editor to England to discuss these changes with Mr. Manchester, who agreed to a number of changes in the areas that were particularly troubling Mrs. Kennedy.

Then Mrs. Kennedy asked Cass Canfield, chairman of the executive committee of Harper & Row, to meet with Gardner Cowles to consider some further changes. These were considered with great

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care at two editing sessions lasting over many hours. A majority of them were finally agreed upon with Mr. Manchester.

Other changes or deletions were made by Mr. Canfield and Mr. Cowles which they felt would also avoid distress for the Kennedy family without in any way impairing the accuracy or completeness of the author's important manuscript.

"Mr. Manchester has written a very moving story of great historical significance," Mr. Cowles said Wednesday. "The public should have the opportunity to read it. We feel strongly that it would be improper to withhold this significant document from the American people; to do so would amount to censorship of history. Look, therefore, is proceeding with its plans to publish generous portions of the book in four installments starting with the issue of Look on sale Jan. 10."

Harper & Row's Statement

Following is the text of a statement by Harper & Row, Publishers, Inc., concerning its scheduled publication of "Death of a President":

Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy requested William Manchester to write a book describing the events surrounding the death of President Kennedy. The Kennedy family also requested that the book be published by Harper & Row, and Harper & Row agreed to do so. It was also agreed that all profits on the book beyond a small return on Harper's investment would go to the Kennedy Library.

The manuscript was submitted to representatives designated by the Kennedy family early in 1966, and detailed conversations and discussions took place between those representatives, the author and Harper & Row.

After these discussions, Harper & Row and Mr. Manchester were officially advised in July of 1966 that "members of the Kennedy family will place no obstacle in the way of publication of his [Mr. Manchester's] book."

In reliance on this statement, Mr. Manchester and Harper & Row proceeded to the final editing of the book, which is entitled "The Death of a President." During this period, also, Harper's consented to further discussions between representatives of the Kennedy family and Mr. Manchester and Harper & Row, and further changes were made at their request.

The revised manuscript was once more submitted, this time to Mr. Richard Goodwin, who had been designated by the Kennedy family for that purpose. He suggested certain further revisions.

Mr. Cass Canfield, chairman of the executive committee of Harper & Row, and Mr. Evan Thomas, chairman of the Harper editorial board, made a special trip to London to consult with Mr. Manchester and gave him a letter Mrs. Kennedy had written to him objecting to certain passages in the book.

Upon their return, at Mrs. Kennedy's request, they conferred with Mr. Gardner Cowles, editorial chairman of Cowles Communications, Inc., publishers of Look, and his associates, with reference to these suggestions.

Thereafter, with the approval of Mr. Manchester, substantial further revisions were made in the manuscript in response to the suggestions made by Mr. Goodwin, Senator Robert Kennedy and others on behalf of the Kennedy family.

Harper & Row has done its utmost to comply with the wishes of the Kennedy family, and deeply regrets their present attitude.